INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION 100 years

IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) Implementation in 2023

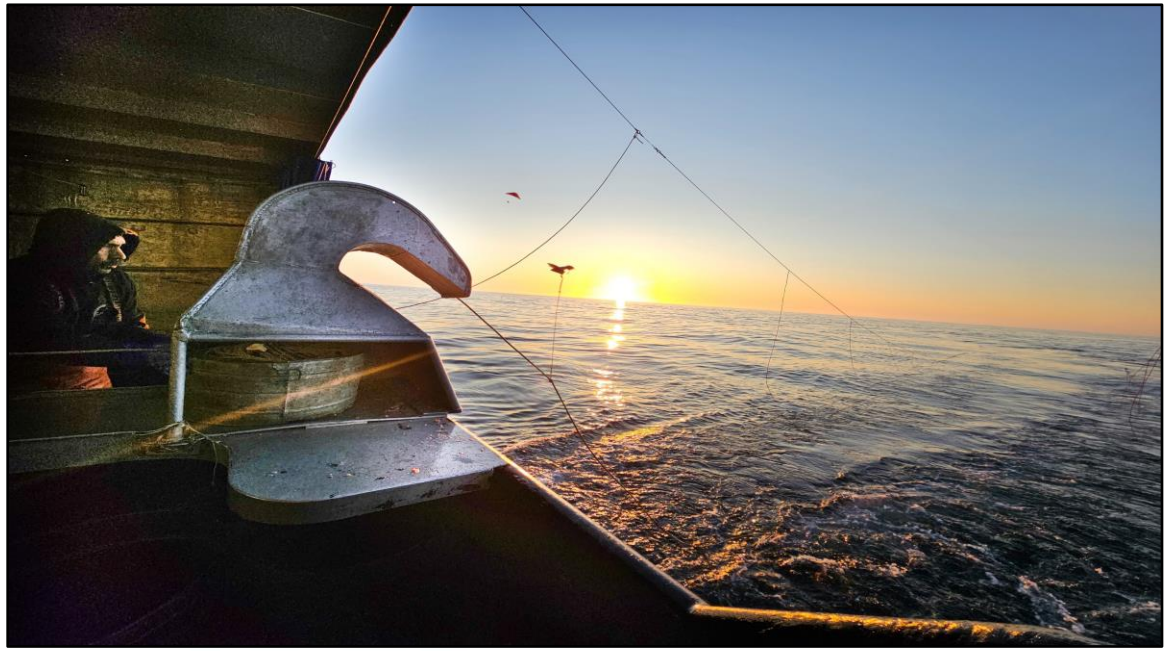
Agenda item: 5.2.2

IPHC-2023-RAB024-07

Kayla Ualesi

Primary Objective

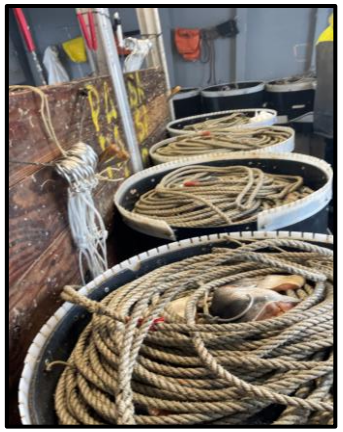
- Standardised, fishery-independent data collection for the Pacific halibut stock (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) assessment and stock distribution estimation
  - Pacific halibut distribution and abundance trends
  - Collection of biological data (sex, maturity, and age)

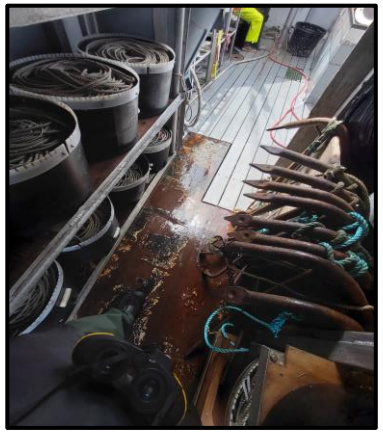


Standardisation

GEAR

- Fixed & Snap Gear
- Each skate meets the following specifications:
  - 1800 ft (548.6 metres) with 100 hooks spaced 18 ft (5.5 metres) apart
  - No. 3 (16/0) circle hooks threaded through the front on 24-48 inch (61-122 cm) gangions
  - 7-10 lb (3-5 kg) weights on each non-anchored skate end

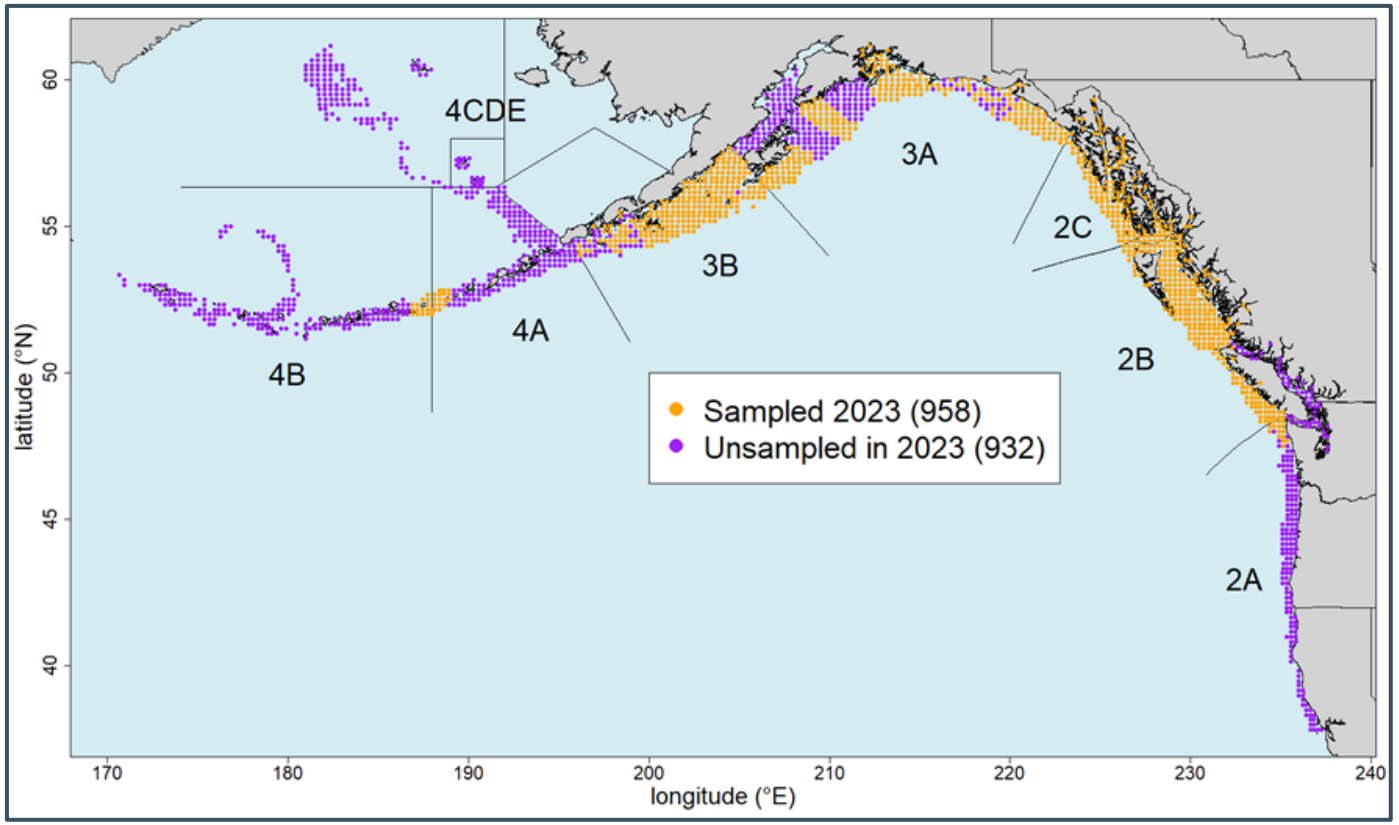




BAIT

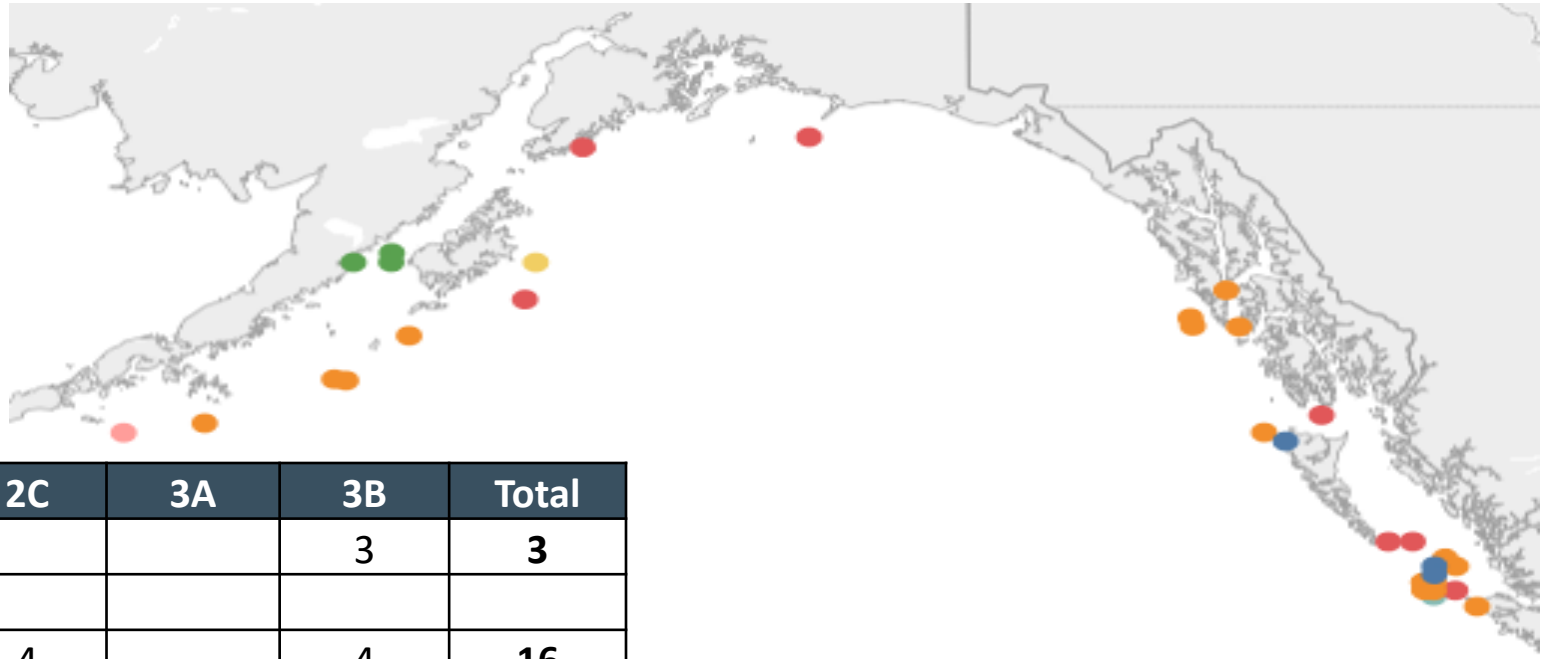
- Frozen chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
- #2 semi-brite or better
- Cut 1/4 to 1/3 lb (1/10 to 1/6 kg)
- Captains sign off on bait quality

2023 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)



26 May- 1 September (27 May- 15 September 2022, 28 May-14 September 2021)
8 vessels (8 in 2022, 13 in 2021)
958 stations planned (1,188 in 2022, 1,346 in 2021)

Ineffective Stations in 2023



Description		2B	2C	3A	3B	Total
Depredation: Shark					3	**3**
Depredation: Whale						
	Sperm Whale	8	4		4	**16**
	Orca	3				**3**
Moved Station > 3nm		1				**1**
Gear Issues		4		3		**7**
Soak Time > 24 hrs				1		**1**
Depredation: Pinniped					1	**1**
Total		**16**	**4**	**4**	**8**	**32**

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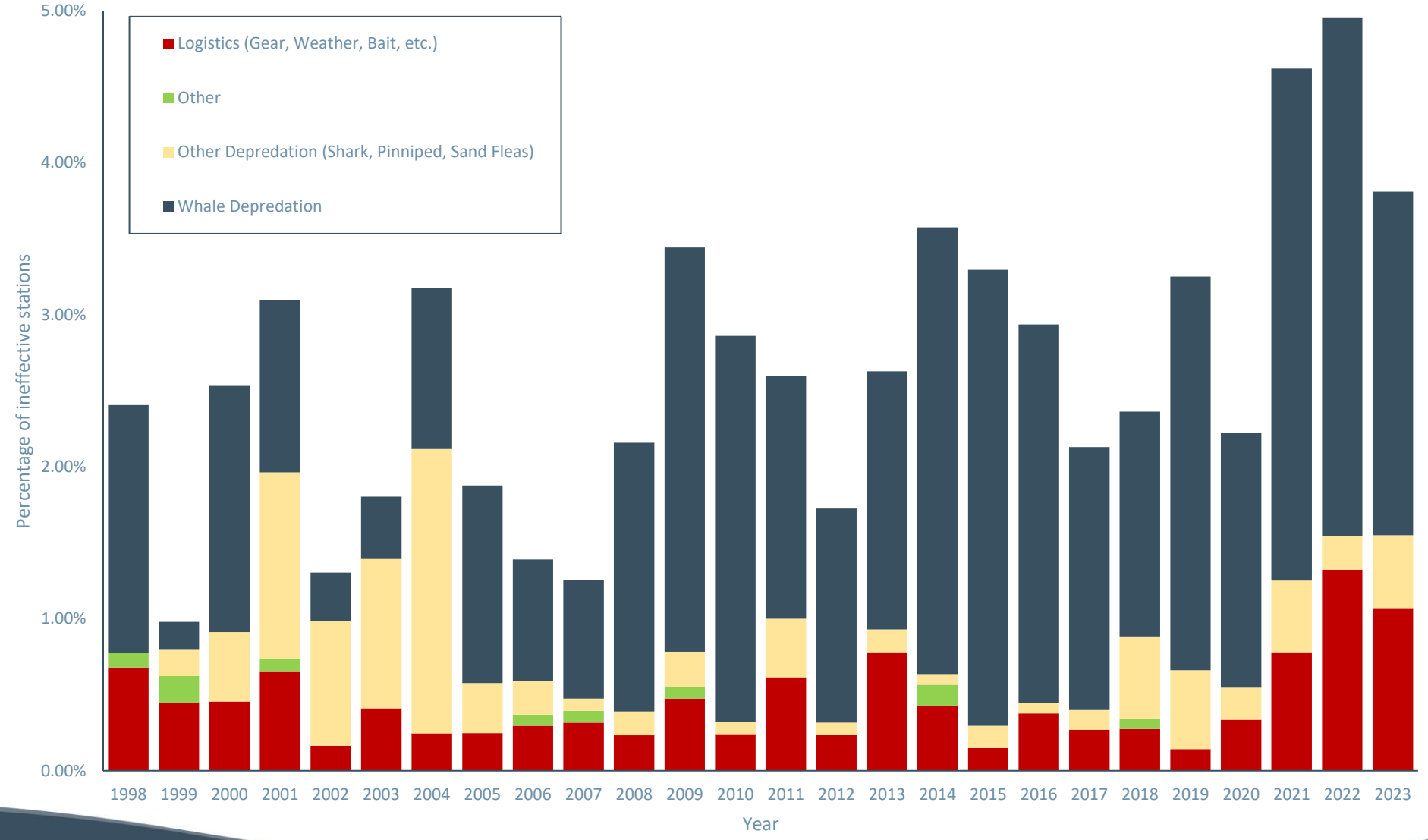
Percentage of Ineffective Stations

- Changes in the FISS design from year to year will influence the number of ineffective stations
- Reg. Area 4A has the highest percentage of ineffective stations and significantly impacts the whale depredation percentages in the years that this area is included in the FISS (not in 2020 or 2023).



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Secondary Objective

- Long Term Revenue Neutrality
  - Fish Sale Process
    - RFT for each sale
    - Rated against specified criteria provided to all interested buyers on sales notice
    - Established controls for review and approval for each sale
    - New in 2023: Opened bids to multiple ports to increase options
  - Charter Agreements
    - RFTs
    - All submissions rated against specified criteria published in tender specifications

Secondary Objective

- Sale of *sampled* U32 Pacific halibut
- Price is slightly less (22% less than O32 Pacific halibut average price)

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Tertiary Objective

- Collaboration
  - ALASKA: Pacific Cod & Spiny dogfish sampling (NOAA Fisheries)
  - 2B: Dockside Rockfish sampling (DFO, Archipelago, PHMA)
  - WDFW: 8 Rockfish Index Stations & Dockside Rockfish Sampling

2023 FISS Results

- *FISS Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) data maps and plots*
- *FISS Performance*
- *FISS Biologicals*
- *Raw FISS data*

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Average Price/lb (USD) by IPHC Reg Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2023 Average price/lb (USD)	FISS 2022 Average price/lb (USD)
2A	$4.81	$5.61
2B	$7.83	$9.01
2C	$6.07	$7.34
3A	$5.49	$7.44
3B	$4.82	$7.27
4A	-	$6.81
4B	-	$6.90
4C	-	$6.84
4D	-	$6.82
Coastwide	$6.04	$7.72

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Average Price/lb (USD) Over Time (2000-2023)

NOTE: Inflation adjusted for better comparison over the years

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Pacific halibut sales (USD) by IPHC Reg. Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2023 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)	FISS 2022 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)
2A	$56,102.01	$68,696.45
2B	$1,000,758.77	$974,464.84
2C	$924,459.23	$908,164.01
3A	$406,328.95	$847,326.09
3B	$706,360.55	$230,386.15
4A	-	$57,181.51
4B	-	$33,924.00
4C	-	$27,032.16
4D	-	$47,699.56
TOTAL	$3,094,009.51	$3,194,874.77

2023 FISS Challenges

- Poor catch rates, lower fish prices
- Minimal vessel bids
  - Vessel availability
    - Sablefish quota
    - Vessel size (deck/bunk space)
    - Vessel maintenance

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